

## Message Text

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42

ACTION CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DOT-00 CU-04 MMO-04 USIA-15 DODE-00 /045 W

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P R 100529Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO COMDT COGARD WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3221

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

RAN NOIC VICTORIA

UNCLAS MELBOURNE 0225

PASS USCGC BURTON ISLAND

E O 11652 N A

TAGS PFOR, SCUL, US, AS

SUBJ: USCGC BURTON ISLAND VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

REF USDAO CANBERRA 0197 FEB 76

1. POST WARMLY WELCOMES VISIT OF USCGC BURTON ISLAND TO MELBOURNE. REACTION TO NEWS OF VISIT FROM AUSTRALIANS AT STATE AND CITY LEVEL - AND FROM MOOMBA FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY ENTHUSIASTIC. IN PARTICULAR MELBOURNE'S LORD MAYOR WALKER IS EXTREMELY PLEASED AT PROSPECT OF BURTON ISLAND CALL, AND ASKED ME IF UNIT FROM SHIP'S CREW COULD PARTICIPATE IN CULMINATING EVENT OF MOOMBA FESTIVAL - MASSIVE PARADE ON MONDAY, MARCH 8.

2. MOOMBA FESTIVAL (ABORIGINAL WORD MOOMBA MEANS "LET'S GET TOGETHER AND HAVE A GOOD TIME") IS ELEVEN DAYS OF CITY-WIDE CELEBRATIONS, WITH A MARDI GRAS/CARNIVAL FLAVOR COMBINED WITH DISTINCTIVE AUSTRALIAN TOUCHES. IT INCLUDES A WIDE-RANGING SERIES OF EVENTS CALCULATED TO PLEASE ALL TASTES. THESE RUN FROM WATER (AND SNOW) SKING TO "BIRDMAN" COMPETITIONS; JAZZ AND ROCK

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FESTIVALS, PLAYS AND MUSICAL EVENTS OF ALL KINDS. THESE

ARE MOSTLY STAGED ALONG  
THE RIVER IN ALEXANDRA GARDENS AND ARE ATTENDED  
BY LARGE CROWDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE. PUBLIC FIREWORKS  
DISPLAYS, REVUES, ETC. ARE OFFERED EVERY NIGHT. FESTIVAL  
CHAIRMAN MURPHY HAS OFFERED BLOCK TICKETS TO SHIP'S  
PERSONNEL FOR MANY FESTIVAL EVENTS AND IS VERY INTERESTED  
IN ACTUAL CREW PARTICIPATION IN SEVERAL.

3. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF EXACT DATES  
FOR BURTON ISLAND VISIT TO MELBOURNE. IF VISIT CAN BE  
PROGRAMMED TO INCLUDE HOLIDAY WEEKEND OF MARCH 6/7/8,  
SHIP'S COMPANY WOULD GET MAXIMUM BENEFIT. PARTICIPATION  
OF USCG CONTINGENT IN PARADE, MARCH 8,  
WHICH WILL BE WATCHED LIVE BY AN ESTIMATED THREE QUARTERS  
OF A MILLION ONLOOKERS AND VIEWED BY SEVERAL MILLION MORE  
VIA TELEVISION, WOULD BE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR TANGIBLE  
AND HIGHLY VISIBLE  
IMPRESSION OF US-AUSTRALIAN TIES,  
AND WOULD HIGHLIGHT OTHER BICENTENNIAL YEAR EVENTS IN  
AUSTRALIA AS WELL. IF PARTICIPATION IN PARADE CAN BE  
ARRANGED, WOULD SUGGEST THAT BURTON ISLAND ASSEMBLE A  
MARCHING UNIT OF APPROXIMATELY PLATOON SIZE WITH COLOR  
GUARD.

4. PLEASE ADVISE IF SHIP HAS ANY SPORTS TEAMS, BANDS  
OR ENTERTAINMENT GROUPS/INDIVIDUALS, OR ANY OTHER  
UNIQUE TALENTS ABOARD, WHO COULD BE PROGRAMMED INTO  
MOOMBA FESTIVAL, SO THAT PRELIMINARY PLANS CAN BE MADE  
FOR THEIR POSSIBLE UTILIZATION DURING FESTIVAL.

5. NOIC RAN VICTORIA WILL COMMUNICATE WITH SHIP REGARD-  
ING LOGISTICAL DETAILS ONCE THEY RECEIVE OFFICIAL  
NOTIFICATION OF DATES FOR VISIT.

6. CONTROL OFFICER FOR VISIT IS FSO-4 PETER T. HANSEN.  
BRAND

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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